

OLD APPEARED

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JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

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STRICTLY PERSONAL

A secret report is circulating inside the CIA that Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous Nazi "Angel of Death" at Auschwitz concentration camp, is dead. I sent my associate Lucette Lagnado to Paraguay last month to find out, if she could, whether the report is true.

In my April letter, I recounted my 30-year search for the medical monster. I told of witnesses who had seen him in various parts of the world. Apparently he usually traveled first-class under various identities, subsidized by his wealthy Bavarian family. The Mengeles, who live in Gunzburg, Germany, once operated a New Jersey company that sold farm equipment made by the family firm. The U.S. operations were directed by the war criminal's nephew, Dieter Mengele, who made frequent trips to this country.

Underground sources told me that the CIA report on Josef Mengele's death is premature, that it might even be deliberate disinformation intended to protect Mengele from Nazi hunters. These sources have reason to believe that he's still very much alive and hiding in Paraguay, under the protection of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner's fascist regime.

So I sent my reporter to Paraguay to search for clues to Mengele's whereabouts, particularly evidence that he might be protected by a Mennonite community that uses Mengele farm equipment. The head of the Mennonite community protested that they aren't protecting the war criminal.

Lagnado located the apartment hotel, now defunct, where he once stayed. The former owners and employees denied that Mengele had lived there. Yet a former tenant told Lagnado that Mengele had been his neighbor and provided intimate details about him. But the tenant hadn't seen Mengele lately.

Meanwhile, the evil doctor still casts his spell, dead or alive. One Jewish shopkeeper refused to answer questions about Mengele, saying: "Do you want me to lose my business?"